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UP-COMING EVENTS

March 1- May 31, 2005
Great American Cleanup
www.kab.org

April 2, 2005
Park Day — Civil War
Preservation Trust
www.civilwar.org

April 15-17, 2005
National Youth Service Day
www.ysa.org

April 17-23, 2005
National Volunteer Week
www.pointsoflight.org

April 22, 2005
Earth Day
www.earthday.gov

May 14-22, 2005
National River Cleanup
Week
www.nationalrivercleanup.com

May 14-15, 2005
Good Sam International
Cleanup Day
www.goodsams.net

A Note from our Executive Director

Congratulations to Clint Eastwood, our national spokesman, for a knock-out at Sunday night's Oscar awards! His Million Dollar Baby walked off with well-deserved Oscars for best picture, director, actress and supporting actor.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Salt Lake City meeting, and a special thank you to all of our Utah friends who were such wonderful and gracious hosts. We had a very successful meeting and heard lots of good ideas from across the country. The theme of the meeting was "participating in Take Pride is easy" and I think those who attended left really understanding how true that is, and with lots of enthusiasm and energy to spread the Take Pride message. We finished the meeting with a Forest Service-planned trail maintenance project on snowshoes. In addition to a concert by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the highlights included many networking opportunities during breaks, over dinners and at our morning at Heritage Park, a volunteer heritage and cultural showcase project.

We anticipate doing another meeting sometime in the coming year and hope more of you will be able to join us. In the meantime, several products from the meeting will be available in the next few weeks, including a general power point presentation that our partners and friends can use to explain Take Pride and recruit more participation.

Sincerely,

Marti Allbright



2005 Take Pride National Meeting Attendees at This is the Place Heritage Park, Utah.



Trees Across Mississippi

Take Pride thanks the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levee Board for giving away more than 28,000 trees this weekend at the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Expo under the Take Pride in America and Take Pride in Mississippi banner. These trees will be used to reforest farmland in the Delta and other parts of Mississippi.

We appreciate the gracious support of Sam Hobart of the Yazoo, MS Delta Levee Board and Robbie Wilbur, state coordinator for Take Pride in Mississippi for being on hand for the event and getting out the Take Pride message!

2005 Take Pride National Meeting a Big Success

In Salt Lake City, more than 60 participants from states around the country convened from February 2nd through the 4th for the first of many Take Pride national meetings. Participating in the conference were state coordinators, local

government representatives, Federal land managers and partners all there to share ideas on building a stronger Take Pride program. The three-day conference covered the spectrum of Take Pride topics, specifically how Take

Pride can be incorporated into their own local, state, or federal program on little or no budget. Take Pride staff was on hand to provide an overview of program resources, including how to apply for program awards, acquiring Take Pride merchandise, and how to utilize the website.

While the focus of the three-day conference was to help participants better incorporate Take Pride into their everyday volunteer projects. The Take Pride program was also happy to take time to present the Presidents Volunteer Service Award and Secretarial Award to local volunteers Karl and Marge Jenkins. Each of which has completed over

12,000 volunteer hours to our public lands. Other activities included a tour of Take Pride in Utah volunteer projects in and around the Salt Lake area and a special day of meetings and sightseeing at This is the Place Historical Park. All events culminating in a volunteer project in the Kamas Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, where volunteers donned snowshoes to help local rangers trim back trees and underbrush along the Shingle Creek Trail.

The Take Pride in America program would like to thank all those that took time out of their busy schedules to come take part. Their views and insights will prove to be very beneficial as we continue to grow. Also, the Take Pride program would like to thank Take Pride in Utah for their assistance and hospitality.



Donna Potter of the Bureau of Reclamation cuts tree branches along a nature trail in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest outside of Park City, Utah as part of a volunteer event.

Response to Your Requests for Project Examples

Following last month's meeting we asked participants to provide us with their questions and comments from our meetings. Many participants asked for more examples of Take Pride in America projects. To give you a good idea of how volunteers can be utilized for your particular needs, to the right we have included some brief summaries of projects that took place last year. They should provide you with a good cross section of ideas.

•Spring River Cleanup - *Valentine, NE*

-Spring cleanup along the Wild and Scenic Niobrara River. Volunteers canoed or walked the river and picked up trash and debris.
-Sponsor: Niobrara Council

•Historic Melrose Estate *Natchez, MS*

-Volunteers planted over 200 Cherry Laurel Trees, remove debris, and paint fences and a historic playhouse.
-Sponsor: National Park Service

•TPIA City Event - *Estes Park, CO*

-Volunteers painted 4 picnic shelters and Barbecue Pits, removed debris, and removed invasive species.
-Sponsors: Town of Estes Park, Estes Park Valley & Park District, Bureau of Reclamation.

•Firebreak Project - *Palomina, AZ*

-Volunteers created a fire break along the edge of the conservation area. Cut long grass, planted low-growing native grass seeds, and removed

woody debris
-Sponsors: Bureau of Land Management, Boy Scouts of America, Palomina Fire Department, Palomina Firewise Community

•Adopt-a-Cabin Ruth Mine - *Ridgecrest, CA*

-Volunteers helped refurbish an old schoolhouse, bunkhouse, and saloon. Removed over 3.5 tons of trash and debris and helped restore the buildings back to their original state, circa 1920's-40's.
-Sponsor: Bureau of Land Management

FEDERAL SPOTLIGHT

National Park Service Units Apply for Take Pride Grants

The Take Pride in America NPS Park Steward Event program is an incentive program for National Parks to hold special, large-scale volunteer events throughout the year. These events will result in the improvement of park, cultural and natural resources through volunteer efforts. In 2004, the program provided grants to 50 parks for special volunteer activities. Thousands of volunteers participated throughout the year in a variety of events from coast to coast.

Take Pride is proud of the accomplishments made possible by this National Park Service Grant. The Park Steward Event Program is currently accepting applications for 2005 projects that result in the increase of new volunteers and hours and the accomplishment of major tasks that benefit park resources. Projects will be funded that clearly describe the work to be accomplished and expected outcomes.

The new grants for 2005 are expected to be announced on March 31. We thank the National Park Service for taking such an active role in promoting volunteer service on our public lands!

Examples of 2004 NPS Park Steward Events

At Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, 33 volunteers focused their efforts on a stretch of historic highway on the Island of Hawai'i. They collected more than five truckloads of garbage, including auto body parts, refrigerators, hot water heaters, and household garbage. Volunteers separated glass and aluminum for recycling and cleaned graffiti from stone walls. Toxic materials including oil and car batteries were taken to toxic waste disposal sites.

At Cuyahoga Valley National Park, 63 volunteers conducted trail sweeps over 5 miles of trail and collected 120 pounds of trash. The group also removed 1,475 square feet of invasive plants including Japanese Honey Suckle, Japanese Barberry, and Multi-flora Rose.

Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC hosted an Earth Day Information Fair and Consumer Electronics Recycling Event. Seventy-five volunteers collected 1,000 pounds of shoes, 500 cans, 40 pounds of cell phones, and 75 pounds of batteries at a fun and educational event attended by 3,000 participants.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Take Pride Partners with Civil War Preservation Trust for Park Day

Saturday, April 2, 2005 will mark the ninth annual Park Day, a nationwide volunteer effort to restore and improve our country's Civil War heritage. Staff from Civil War battlefields, monuments, and museums in 23 states and the District of Columbia are inviting volunteers to lend a hand in cleaning, painting, clearing trails, planting trees, and other activities. This year 92 sites, from Maine to New Mexico, are participating in Park Day. Sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust and the History Channel, Park Day is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to come together to preserve and improve the historic legacy of the Civil War for generations to come.

For the full list of sites, please visit <http://www.civil-war.org/parkday2005.htm>, or for more information call 1-800-298-7878.

Capital River Relief

Last year, Take Pride in America participated in the first "Capital River Relief" project on the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. The project consists of a coalition of environmental groups, businesses, as well as community and government organizations that combine with the capabilities of Living Lands & Waters, a Midwest-based river clean-up group, the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the Anacostia Watershed Society to conduct a large-scale clean up of the Potomac and Anacostia watersheds.

Capital River Relief 2004 was a great success and was responsible for removing over 40 tons of refuse from the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

This year Take Pride is at it again, taking Department of the Interior employees out on the Potomac River to lend a hand. This year's project will kick off on March 31, 2005. The cleanup aspect of the project will last over two weeks and will conclude with a closing press event on Earth Day, April 22. Eleven of those days will be dedicated volunteer days during which approximately 800 volunteers from local businesses, government organizations and universities will help clean the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

Department of the Interior volunteers will be out on the river, Saturday, April 9, taking pride in America's public waters. If you would like more information about this project, visit www.capitalriverrelief.org.

Bruce Becomes First Take Pride City in MS

Take Pride in America and Take Pride in Mississippi announced recently that Bruce, Mississippi, has been declared the first Take Pride in America City in Mississippi.

"The folks here in Bruce are excited to be a participant in Take Pride in Mississippi. We recognize the importance of our public lands and facilities and want to be the very best stewards possible," said Bruce Mayor Jesse Quillen. "Participating in Take Pride in Mississippi will give us an opportunity to Take Pride in Bruce as we seek to maintain and enhance our public resources. We look forward to sharing our volunteer efforts with you as we improve and preserve the downtown, parks, and historic elements of Bruce."

"We are delighted to be adding more cities to the growing number of participating Take Pride in America Cities."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Florida volunteers help after Hurricane Ivan

On Saturday, February 12, local community volunteers and members from the Friends of Topsail Hill Preserve State Park, did their part in helping cleanup and maintain the Morris Lake Nature Trail. The 2.5 mile trail was damaged when Hurricane Ivan hit the area in September 2004. Volunteers assisted park staff in resetting posts, signs, and

benches, digging out the boardwalk, trimming and removing logs and debris, re-securing boards to the boardwalk, and replacing damaged fences. These tasks were vital to the park's recovery from damage sustained during the hurricane.

Altogether, the 25 volunteers contributed 125 hours of volunteer service to the park. Thanks to their hard work, park staff was able to complete all the tasks necessary to maintain the nature trail and ensure the safety of future visitors!



Volunteers take a rest after clearing the Morris Lake Nature Trail.

It is these active mayors that can motivate individuals and groups in their communities to show pride in America. By their example, the mission of Take Pride is taken all over the country, and we have more and more environmental stewards giving back to our public lands. We welcome Mississippi's first city - the City of Bruce to Take Pride in America," stated Marti Allbright, Executive Director of Take Pride in America.



"We are excited that Bruce and Mayor Quillen see the value in becoming a

Take Pride City. We encourage more mayors and cities to examine this program and explore the benefits of becoming involved," said Robbie Wilbur, State Coordinator for Take Pride in Mississippi.

Welcome to our newest Take Pride Cities...

Aurora, CO - Mayor Ed Tauer

Bruce, MS - Mayor Jesse Quillen

Ridgeland, MS - Mayor Gene McGee

For Your Information.....

We would like to continue the Spotlight sections of our newsletter. We know you are doing amazing things out there, and we want to showcase your efforts! Please send us your photos, event evaluation forms and a write-up of your event.

Email your materials to takepride@ios.doi.gov. We may add them to our Web site or newsletter. We look forward to highlighting you!

Thank you...

We want to thank our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride," please continue sending us articles for future editions.

Sincerely,

Take Pride Staff